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NATO leaders declare China a global security challenge

By AAMER MADHANI, JONATHAN LEMIRE and LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO leaders on Monday declared that China poses a constant security challenge and is working to undermine global order, and they said they're worried about how fast the Chinese are developing nuclear missiles.

In a summit statement, the leaders said that China's goals and "assertive behavior present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to alliance security."

While the 30 heads of state and government avoided calling China a rival, they expressed concern about what they said were its "coercive policies," the opaque ways it is modernizing its armed forces and its use of disinformation.

They called on Beijing to uphold its international commitments and to act responsibly in the international system.

The statement comes as President Joe Biden has stepped up his effort to rally allies to speak in a more unified voice about China's human rights record, its trade practices and its military's increasingly assertive behavior that has unnerved U.S. allies in the Pacific.

Continued on next page



GLOBAL CHALLENGE

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks with U.S. President Joe Biden during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a NATO summit at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Monday, June 14, 2021.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

Biden, who arrived at the summit after three days of consulting with Group of Seven allies in England, pushed for the G-7 communique there that called out what it said were forced labor practices and other human rights violations impacting Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in the western Xinjiang province. The president said he was satisfied with the communique, although differences remain among the allies about how forcefully to criticize Beijing.

The new Brussels communique states plainly that the NATO nations "will engage China with a view to defending the security interests of the alliance."

The Chinese Embassy to the United Kingdom on Monday issued a statement saying the G-7 communique "deliberately slandered China and arbitrarily interfered in China's internal affairs," and exposed the "sinister intentions of a few countries, such as the United States." There was no immediate reaction from the Chinese government to the new NATO statement.

Biden arrived at his first NATO summit as president as leading members declared it a pivotal moment for an alliance beleaguered during the presidency of Donald Trump, who questioned the relevance of the multilateral organization.

Shortly after arriving at the alliance's headquarters for the first NATO summit of his presidency, Biden sat down with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and underscored the U.S. commitment to Article 5 of the alliance charter, which spells out that an attack on one member is an attack on all and is to be met with a collective response.

"Article 5 we take as a sacred obligation," Biden



NATO leaders pose for a group photo during a NATO summit in Brussels, Monday, June 14, 2021. Associated Press

said. "I want NATO to know America is there."

It was a sharp shift in tone from the past four years, when Trump called the alliance "obsolete" and complained that it allowed for "global freeloading" countries to spend less on military defense at the expense of the U.S.

Looking forward, Stoltenberg noted myriad challenges still facing the alliance.

"We are meeting at the pivotal time for our alliance, the time of growing geopolitical competition, regional instability, terrorism, cyber attacks and climate change," Stoltenberg said at the start of a joint session of the NATO leaders. "No nation and no continent can deal with these challenges alone. But Europe and North America are not alone."

Biden, who came to Brussels following three days of consultations with Group of Seven leaders in England, was greeted by fellow leaders with warmth and even a bit of relief.

Belgium Prime Minister Alexander de Croo said Biden's

presence "emphasizes the renewal of the transatlantic partnership." De Croo said NATO allies were looking to get beyond four stormy years under the Trump administration and infighting among member countries. "I think now we are ready to turn the page," de Croo said. Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi made a not-so-subtle dig at Trump, while welcoming Biden.

"This summit is a continuation of yesterday's G-7 and is part of the process of reaffirming, of rebuilding the fundamental alliances of the United States that had been weakened by the previous administration," he said. "Think that President Biden's first visit is to Europe and try to remember where President Trump's first visit was?"

Trump's first overseas visit as president was to Saudi Arabia.

Trump routinely berated other NATO countries for not spending enough on defense and even threatened to pull the U.S. out of the world's biggest security organization and even questioned the mutual de-

fense provision of the NATO charter, a central tenet of the alliance.

When alliance members last met for a summit in England in December 2019, Trump grabbed headlines by calling Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "two-faced" and French President Emmanuel Macron "nasty."

Trump lashed out after Trudeau was caught on a hot mic gossiping with other leaders about Trump turning photo opportunities into long news conferences. Ahead of the summit, Macron had declared NATO "brain dead" because of a void in U.S. leadership under Trump.

The White House said the communique to be signed by alliance members at the end of the NATO summit is expected to include language about updating Article 5 to include major cyber attacks — a matter of growing concern amid a series of hacks targeting the U.S. government and businesses around the globe by Russia-based hackers.

The update will spell out that if an alliance member

needs technical or intelligence support in response to a cyber attack, it would be able to invoke the mutual defense provision to receive assistance, according to White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. The president started his day meeting with leaders of the Baltic states on NATO's eastern flank as well as separate meetings with leaders of Poland and Romania to discuss the threat posed by Russia and the recent air piracy in Belarus, according to the White House.

Biden's itinerary in Europe has been shaped so that he would first gather with G-7 leaders and then with NATO allies in Brussels before his much-anticipated meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva on Wednesday. And with both summits, Biden aimed to consult European allies on efforts to counter provocative actions by China and Russia.

Biden will meet later on Monday with Turkey's president, Erdogan, on the summit sidelines.

Biden has known Erdogan for years but their relationship has frequently been contentious. Biden, during his campaign, drew ire from Turkish officials after he described Erdogan as an "autocrat." In April, Biden infuriated Ankara by declaring that the Ottoman-era mass killing and deportations of Armenians was "genocide" — a term that U.S. presidents have avoided using. □

U.S. intel report warns of more violence by QAnon followers

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN** and **NOMAAN MERCHANT**
WASHINGTON (AP) — A

new federal intelligence report warns that adherents of QAnon, the conspiracy theory embraced by some in the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol, could target Democrats and other political opponents for more violence as the movement's false prophecies don't come true.

Many QAnon followers believe former President Donald Trump was fighting enemies within the so-called "deep state" to expose a cabal of Satan-worshipping cannibals operating a child sex trafficking ring. Trump's loss to President Joe Biden disillusioned some believers in "The Storm," a supposed reckoning in which Trump's enemies would be tried and executed. Some adherents have now pivoted to believing Trump is the "shadow president" or Biden's victory was an illusion.

The report was compiled by the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security and released Monday by Sen. Martin Heinrich, a New Mexico Democrat. It



In this Jan. 6, 2021, file photo rioters break into the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

predicts that while some QAnon adherents will pull back, others "likely will begin to believe they can no longer 'trust the plan' referenced in QAnon posts and that they have an obligation to change from serving as 'digital soldiers' towards engaging in real world violence."

As major social media companies suspend or remove

QAnon-themed accounts, many followers have moved to less well-known platforms and discussed how to radicalize new users on them, the report says.

The report says several factors will contribute to QAnon's long-term durability, including the COVID-19 pandemic, some social media companies allowing posts about the theories,

societal polarization in the U.S., and the "frequency and content of pro-QAnon statements by public individuals who feature prominently in core QAnon narratives."

The report does not identify any of those public individuals. But Trump, who while in office praised QAnon followers as "people that love our country," has repeated-

ly refused to acknowledge the election is over and spoken baselessly of his victory being "stolen," despite multiple court rulings and a finding by his own Justice Department upholding the integrity of the election. One longtime ally told The Associated Press that Trump has given credence to a conspiracy theory that he could somehow be reinstated into the presidency in August.

Heinrich pressed FBI Director Chris Wray in April to release an assessment of how the government views QAnon. "The public deserves to know how the government assesses the threat to our country from those who would act violently on such beliefs," he said then.

The movement around QAnon has already been linked to political violence, notably during the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection in which some rioters believed they would reverse Trump's defeat. At least 20 QAnon followers have been charged with federal crimes related to Jan. 6, according to an Associated Press review of court records. □

Report says technology kept 2020 census below expected cost

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

The 2020 census is expected to cost \$14.2 billion, well below a previous estimate of \$15.6 billion, reflecting a slowdown in the price tag for the nation's head count thanks to technological innovations, according to a new watchdog report released Monday. The lower cost came even though the Census Bureau spent an extra \$1.1 billion responding to the pandemic, whose spread in the U.S. coincided with the start of the nation's head count for most U.S. residents in March 2020.

Technological innovations allowed most households to answer the census questionnaire online for the first time instead of just by mail or phone, surprising statisticians with a self-response rate that exceeded ex-

pectations.

The innovations also permitted census takers to take down answers from households using mobile devices that also created the most efficient routes for census takers to follow when going from home to home, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office.

Cost savings came from the bureau's opening fewer field offices and using administrative records to fill in answers for households that didn't respond on their own or didn't open their doors to census takers seeking answers about their households, the report said.

The per-household cost of the 2020 census wasn't significantly more than it was in 2010 — \$96 per household versus \$92 per house-

hold. By contrast, it had been jumping decade to decade before that, rising from \$16 per household in 1970 to \$80 per household in 2000. At the same time, self-response rates had declined, requiring more money to pay for census takers to knock on the doors of people who hadn't yet answered the questionnaire, the report said. "This suggests that even with the expenses associated with COVID-19, the Bureau moderated the historically rising cost curve of the census," the GAO report said.

The pandemic caused delays in operations, forced the bureau to extend the deadline for ending field operations by several months and necessitated the purchase of millions of gloves and masks for cen-



In this file image from video provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, a sign language interpreter, lower left, signs for acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau Ron Jarmin, who is speaking off camera, as a graphic showing the U.S. population as of April 1, 2020, is displayed during a virtual news conference.

Associated Press

sus takers.

The bureau also allowed people to respond without a unique identification number in an effort to make answering the questionnaire easier. The bureau received 17 million responses without the identification number

when it had been expecting only 9 million, the report said.

The once-a-decade census determines how many congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets, as well as the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending. □

Justice official resigning amid uproar over Dems' subpoena

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department's top national security official is resigning from his position after revelations that the department under President Donald Trump secretly seized records from Democrats and members of the media.

John Demers, a Trump appointee, will leave by the end of next week, a Justice Department official told The Associated Press on Monday. Demers, who was sworn in a few weeks after the subpoena for the Democrats' records, is one of the few Trump appointees who has remained in the Biden administration. He had planned for weeks to leave the department by the end of June, a second person familiar with the matter said.

The official and the person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

Demers' resignation comes amid questions about what he knew about the Justice Department's efforts to se-



In this Oct. 19, 2020 file photo, Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division John Demers speaks at a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington.

Associated Press

cretely seize the phone data from House Democrats and reporters as part of the aggressive investigations into leaks.

Attorney General Merrick Garland emphasized in a statement Monday that "political or other improper considerations must play no role in any investigative or prosecutorial decisions" and noted the department's inspector general

has already launched an investigation.

"Consistent with our commitment to the rule of law," he said, "we must ensure that full weight is accorded to separation-of-powers concerns moving forward." News emerged last week that the Justice Department had secretly subpoenaed Apple for metadata from House Intelligence Committee Chairman

Adam Schiff and another Democratic member of the panel, California Rep. Eric Swalwell, in 2018, as their committee was investigating Trump's ties to Russia. Schiff at the time was the top Democrat on the panel, which was led by Republicans.

The records of at least 12 people connected to the House intelligence panel were eventually shared with the Justice Department by Apple after the subpoena was issued in 2018. The people included aides, former aides and family members. One was a minor.

The subpoena, issued Feb. 6, 2018, requested information on 73 phone numbers and 36 email addresses, Apple said. It also included a non-disclosure order that prohibited the company from notifying any of the people and was renewed three times, the company said in a statement.

Demers has been in charge of the department's national security division since late February 2018, and his division has played a role in each of the leak investiga-

tions.

He will be temporarily replaced by Mark Lesko, the acting U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York, the official said, until President Joe Biden's official pick, Matthew Olsen, is approved by the Senate.

Olsen is an Uber executive with experience in the Justice Department. He has served as director of the National Counterterrorism Center and as general counsel for the National Security Agency. Demers had remained in place while Olsen awaits a confirmation hearing. Lesko will fill the role until Olsen is confirmed.

The Justice Department's inspector general has launched a probe into the matter after a request from Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco. Inspector General Michael Horowitz said he would examine whether the data subpoenaed by the Justice Department and turned over by Apple followed department policy and "whether any such uses, or the investigations, were based upon improper considerations." □

Reality Winner, NSA contractor in leak case, out of prison



In this June 26, 2018 file photo, Reality Winner walks into the Federal Courthouse in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former government contractor who was given the longest federal prison sentence imposed for leaks to the news media has been released from prison to home confinement, a per-

son familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Monday.

Reality Winner, 29, has been moved to home confinement and remains in the custody of the federal Bureau of Prisons, the person said. The person could not discuss the matter pub-

licly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. She pleaded guilty in 2018 to a single count of transmitting national security information. Winner was sentenced to five years and three months in prison, which prosecutors said at the time was the longest ever imposed for leaking government information to the news media.

Her release was hailed as a cause for celebration after advocates had spent years fighting for her release or a pardon. Her lawyer, Alison Grinter Allen, said in a statement that Winner and her family are working to "heal the trauma of incarceration and build back the years lost."

She said they are "relieved and hopeful" after her release from prison.

The former Air Force translator worked as a contrac-

tor at a National Security Agency office in Augusta, Georgia, when she printed a classified report and left the building with it tucked into her pantyhose. Winner told the FBI she mailed the document to an online news outlet.

Authorities never identified the news organization. But the Justice Department announced Winner's June 2017 arrest the same day The Intercept reported on a secret NSA document. It detailed Russian government efforts to penetrate a Florida-based supplier of voting software and the accounts of election officials ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The NSA report was dated May 5, the same as the document Winner had leaked.

At the time of her sentencing, Winner was given credit for more than a year she

spent in jail while the case was pending in U.S. District Court. She was sent to home confinement just a few months ahead of her release date of Nov. 23, according to the Bureau of Prisons.

"My actions were a cruel betrayal of my nation's trust in me," Winner told the judge at her sentencing in August, 2018.

Previously, Winner had unsuccessfully tried to shorten her sentence by seeking a pardon from President Donald Trump — whom she had once mocked on social media as a "soulless ginger orangutan" — and by arguing she had health conditions that made her more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection. Her sister said last July that Winner tested positive for the coronavirus but didn't show symptoms. □

Americans stand trial in Japan, accused in Ghosn's escape

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

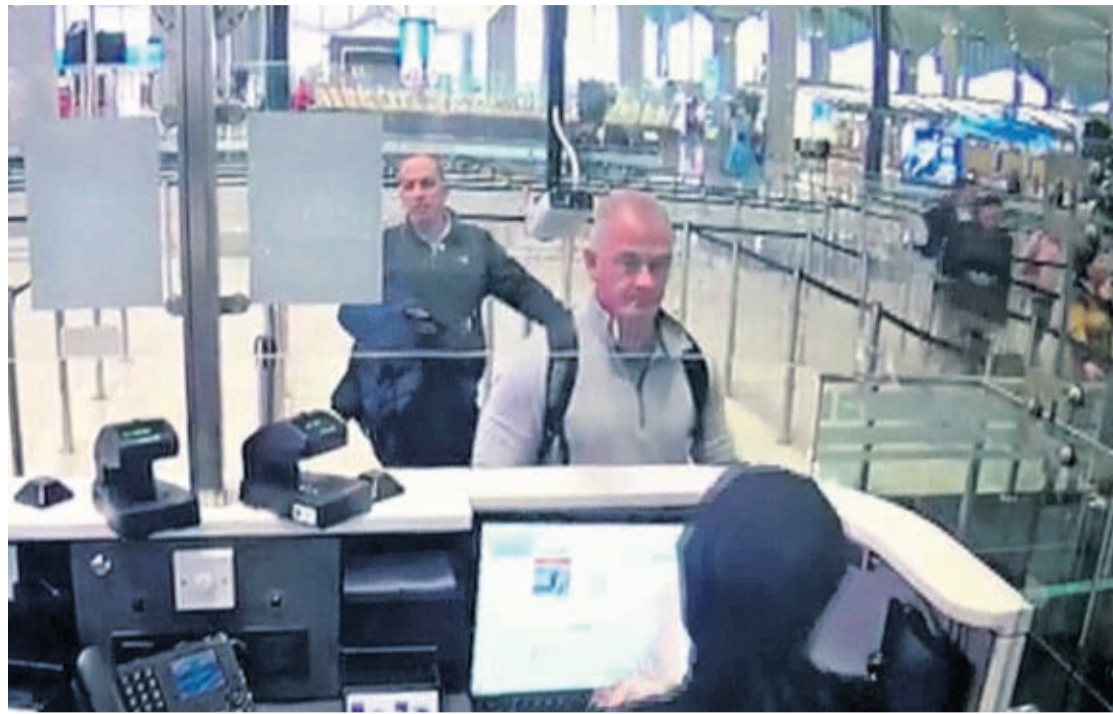
TOKYO (AP) — Two Americans charged with helping former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn flee Japan while he was facing accusations of financial misconduct agreed Monday that they took part in a scheme for him to escape the country.

Statements by Michael Taylor and his son, Peter, on the opening day of their trial in Tokyo suggest the pair don't plan to fight charges of assisting a criminal. That carries a possible penalty of up to three years in prison.

Keiji Isaji, one of the attorneys for the Taylors, told The Associated Press after the court session that he wants the trial to "proceed efficiently." He said ending the trial quickly is "in the best interests of his clients." He declined to confirm his team was hoping for a suspended sentence if they are convicted, meaning no time would be served. He stressed the decision was up to the judge.

The Taylors appeared calm as they were led into the courtroom in handcuffs, with ropes tied around their waists.

They said little except to answer the judge's questions,



This Dec. 30, 2019 image from security camera video shows Michael L. Taylor, center, and George-Antoine Zayek at passport control at Istanbul Airport in Turkey.

Associated Press

such as "Yes, your honor," and "I hear you well," when asked about simultaneous interpreting relayed through headphones.

Prosecutors read out a statement accusing Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret, and Peter Taylor of arranging to hide Ghosn in a box for musical equipment. It was loaded onto a private jet that flew him from the western city of Osaka to Lebanon via Turkey in December 2019.

Ryozo Kitajima, one of the

prosecutors, said Peter Taylor met with Ghosn at a hotel several times in 2019 and introduced Ghosn to his father. He said Peter Taylor also received \$562,500 in two transfers to pay for chartering the jet and other expenses. Peter Taylor arranged for Ghosn to change his clothing at a Tokyo hotel. His father and another man, George-Antoine Zayek later accompanied Ghosn to the Osaka airport, Kitajima said.

Zayek has not been arrest-

ed.

The prosecutors said bitcoins worth \$500,000 were transferred from Ghosn's son Anthony's account to Peter Taylor in 2020, purportedly to cover the Taylors' defense costs.

After a brief discussion with Chief Judge Hideo Nirei and their defense lawyers, the Taylors agreed there were no mistakes in the statement.

Prosecutors said that during their detention the Taylors had expressed remorse

and that the pair had been misled to believe helping someone jump bail was not illegal in Japan. They said Ghosn's wife Carole told them Ghosn was being tortured. The prosecutors quoted the Taylors as saying they were not tortured and were treated in a way that was "fair and professional."

The trial's next session is set for June 29, when prosecutors will continue their questioning.

The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts last year and extradited to Japan in March. Ghosn has French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenship and Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan.

The authorities say Ghosn paid the Taylors at least \$1.3 million.

Ghosn led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades before his arrest in 2018. He was charged with falsifying securities reports in underreporting his compensation and of breach of trust in using Nissan money for personal gain. He says he is innocent and says he fled Japan because he did not expect to get a fair trial. More than 99% of criminal cases in Japan result in convictions. □

U.S., Russia envoys discuss Iran nuclear deal ahead of summit

By DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Delegations from Russia and the United States involved in nuclear negotiations with Iran held talks in Vienna on Monday, two days ahead of a summit meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The United States is not directly involved in the Vienna negotiations but has regular contacts with participating diplomats.

Efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear containment deal for Iran are a rare topic of collaboration between the two global adversaries.

Mikhail Ulyanov, a senior diplomat who headed the Russian delegation at the



Deputy Secretary General and Political Director of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Enrique Mora, leaves the 'Grand Hotel Vienna' where closed-door nuclear talks take place in Vienna, Austria, Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Associated Press

meeting in Vienna, called the talks with U.S. counterparts "fruitful."

"Our dialogue in Vienna seems to be proof that the two countries can maintain

businesslike cooperation on issues of common interest, non-proliferation in this particular case," Ulyanov wrote in a tweet.

The nuclear agreement

was scuppered in 2018 when the Trump administration pulled the United States out of the accord, arguing that it handed Iran too many concessions.

Diplomats from China, Germany, France, Russia, and Britain held joint talks with Iran Saturday and multiple bilateral meetings afterward at a hotel in the center of the Austrian capital.

Matthew Rojansky, director of the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute in Washington, said Russia was keen to curb some of Iran's ambitions.

"Moscow still prefers to see Tehran checked in its aspiration to develop a weapon, but is much less motivated when it comes to checking Iran's regional

ambitions and its broader global misbehavior," he told the AP.

"At the same time, Russia has a balancing act to perform in Syria, where Iran's force of arms on the ground could become a problem for Russian ambitions."

The 2015 agreement was designed to keep Iran's nuclear program peaceful, imposing strict controls on uranium enrichment levels as well as the technology and facilities used for the process.

Iran stopped abiding by those limits after the U.S. withdrawal but insists it has no plan to build nuclear weapons a claim that the U.S. and its western allies dispute. □

AP Interview: ICC prosecutor sees 'reset' under Biden

By **MIKE CORDER**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said Monday that the global tribunal's relationship with the United States — plunged into the deep freeze by former President Donald Trump — is undergoing a "reset" under his successor, Joe Biden.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda made the comments in an interview with The Associated Press, on the day Biden was meeting NATO allies in Brussels to reaffirm Washington's commitment to the military alliance — in another break from the Trump era of deep skepticism toward multilateralism.

Bensouda spoke to AP at the court's headquarters in The Hague on the eve of leaving office after her nine-year term as the ICC's chief prosecutor. Her successor, British lawyer Karim Khan, takes office on Wednesday.

The Trump administration hit Bensouda with sanctions for pressing ahead with investigations into the U.S. and its allies, notably Israel, for alleged war crimes. She was subjected to a travel ban in March 2019, and 18 months later a freeze on



International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, June 14, 2021.

Associated Press

her U.S.-based assets. "I do believe that it was wrong. Really, a red line has been crossed," Bensouda said of the sanctions. Biden lifted the sanctions in April but Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed that Washington still strongly disagreed with some actions by the court. "We believe, however, that our concerns about these

cases would be better addressed" through diplomacy "rather than through the imposition of sanctions," Blinken wrote. Bensouda welcomed the change of tone. "We are at a more helpful place now because the Biden administration has decided to lift those sanctions and both the administration and ourselves, we

are working on some kind of a reset that is the relationship between the ICC and the US administration," she said. The court is investigating allegations of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity by U.S. troops and foreign intelligence operatives, as part of a wide-ranging investigation into the Afghanistan

conflict that also covers alleged crimes by Afghan government forces and the Taliban.

Afghan authorities have asked the court to take over the probe.

Bensouda met with Afghan Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar last month to discuss the case.

Atmar said after the meeting that "we are confident that with full cooperation with the Prosecutor, we can jointly advance the cause of justice for all of the victims of the long and devastating conflict."

Bensouda said Afghan authorities need to show the court that they are investigating the same alleged crimes identified by the ICC probe.

"If they are able to provide us with this information that they are conducting these cases, then of course, we will have to take a step back and look at what they are doing and monitor that," she said.

Bensouda launched another politically charged investigation in March, into alleged crimes by both Israel and Hamas on Palestinian territories dating back to mid-2014. Israel has harshly condemned the probe. □

Duterte again delays abrogation of key security pact with U.S.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his speech during the 123rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Philippine independence rites on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the Provincial Capitol of Bulacan province, Philippines.

Associated Press

By **JIM GOMEZ**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday again suspended his decision to terminate a key de-

fense pact with the United States, which he has asked to provide more aid and coronavirus vaccines in exchange for retaining the accord.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said, without elaborating, that Duterte suspended the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement for another six months to allow both sides to address his concerns. Terminating the pact would be a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia.

Duterte's administration notified the U.S. government in February last year that it intended to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint combat training with Philippine troops and lays down the legal terms for their temporary stay.

The maneuvers involved thousands of American and Philippine military personnel in land, sea and air

drills that often included live-fire exercises in pre-pandemic times.

The pact's termination would have taken effect after 180 days, but Duterte has repeatedly delayed the effectivity of his decision.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana welcomed the president's decision, which he said would give the two governments more time to review the pact.

"Our bilateral cooperation with the U.S. is geared toward upholding our national interest and, to the extent necessary, to enhance the Philippines' defense capability," Lorenzana said.

Duterte said in February that if the U.S. wants to keep the agreement, "they have to pay."


"It's a shared responsibility,

but your share of responsibility does not come free," Duterte said then.

In December, he warned that he would proceed with the abrogation if the U.S. does not provide at least 20 million doses of vaccine.

"If they cannot deliver even a minimum of 20 million vaccine, they better get out. No vaccine, no stay here," Duterte said.

Critics hit Duterte for the remarks, which Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who heads the Senate committee on national defense and generally supports Duterte, said "may have given the impression that the Philippines is a nation of extortionists." Lacson said "one cannot put a price tag on the value" of the Visiting Forces Agreement. □




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Nicaragua stages unprecedented roundup of opposition leaders

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguan police have arrested another opposition politician, bringing to six the number detained over the weekend. Five were arrested on Sunday, the biggest one-day roundup so far in President Daniel Ortega's campaign to jail anyone who might challenge his rule. The last arrest, which came late Sunday, was that of Victor Hugo Tinoco, the leader of the political movement Unamos. Another leader of that party, Suyen Barahona, was arrested earlier in the day. On Sunday, police also arrested prominent ex-Sandinista dissidents Dora María Téllez and Hugo Torres and, another opposition leader, Ana Margarita Vijil. Arrested Saturday was Unamos activist Tamara Dávila. Unamos was formed by former Sandinistas angered by Ortega's autocratic ways, nepotism and perpetual re-elections. The weekend arrests suggest Ortega has moved beyond arresting potential rival candidates in the Nov. 7 elections, and has begun arresting any prominent member of the opposition. The arrests bring to 13 the number of opponents detained since June 2. "It's not just potential candidates any more, it's political leaders," former general and Sandinista dissident Hugo Torres told The Associated Press before he himself was arrested Sunday. "This is not a transition to dictatorship, it is a dictatorship in every way." Tellez was a leading Sandinista militant who led an assault on the National Palace in 1978, taking hostage the congress of dictator Anastasio Somoza in exchange for the release of Sandinista prisoners.

Following Somoza's overthrow, Tellez served as health minister in the first Sandinista government which ruled from 1979 to 1990. Like many former guerrillas, she later split with Ortega. Police said they arrested the opposition leaders on charges related to a recently enacted law that classifies as treason any support for sanctions against officials in the Ortega regime; the U.S. has slapped sanctions on dozens of officials. Under a law passed in December, Ortega's government has the power to unilaterally declare citizens "terrorists" or coup-mongers, classify them as "traitors to the homeland" and ban them from running as candidates. The law punishes those "who lead or finance a coup ... encourage foreign interference, ask for military intervention ... propose or plan economic blockades, applaud and champion the imposition of sanctions against Nicaragua or its citizens." Those accused "will be traitors to the homeland, and for that reason may not run for public office." Treason is punishable by prison terms of up to 15 years. Ortega has already arrested four potential opposition candidates who might have challenged his bid for a fourth consecutive term. Before his arrest, Torres said he had seen drones flying around his home in recent days, of the type used at Tellez's house. "This interview may be the last one I give," Torres said. "I am here, waiting for them to come for me." Hours later, police barged into Torres' home and arrested him.





In this Jan. 28, 2014 file photo, opposition legislator Victor Hugo Tinoco, of the Sandinista Renewal Movement (MRS) gestures before the National Assembly votes to amend the Nicaraguan Constitution to include eliminating presidential term limits in Managua, Nicaragua.


Associated Press

Nicaragua's National Police arrested the four opposition pre-candidates earlier this month. On June 8, they arrested pre-candidate Félix Mara-diaga, a pre-candidate for the opposition coalition Blue and White National Unity, and Sebastián Chamorro, a former director of the opposition coalition Civic Alliance. The previous week authorities detained Cristiana Chamorro, a cousin of Juan Sebastián Chamorro, and Arturo Cruz Sequeira, a former ambassador to the United States. Ortega initially led Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990 following the Sandinista revolution that ousted Somoza. He returned to the presidency in 2007 after three failed election attempts, and he won reelection in 2011. He then sidestepped term limits to get himself reelected in 2016, and packed courts and government agencies with allies. The Sandinista party controls the courts and the legislature, and has stifled universities and the Roman


Catholic church. Torres said Ortega has now instituted a more suffocating dictatorship than Somoza, who faced opposition from the within the church, intellectual circles and universities. "I think Ortega has outdone Somoza," said Torres. "He has subordinated all the power to himself as Somoza never could. He has a bigger repressive apparatus than Somoza ever had." Julie Chung, the U.S. State Department's acting assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere affairs, said via Twitter that Ortega's "campaign of terror continues with more arbitrary arrests this weekend. OAS members must send a clear signal this week: enough repression. The region cannot stand by and wait to see who is next." □







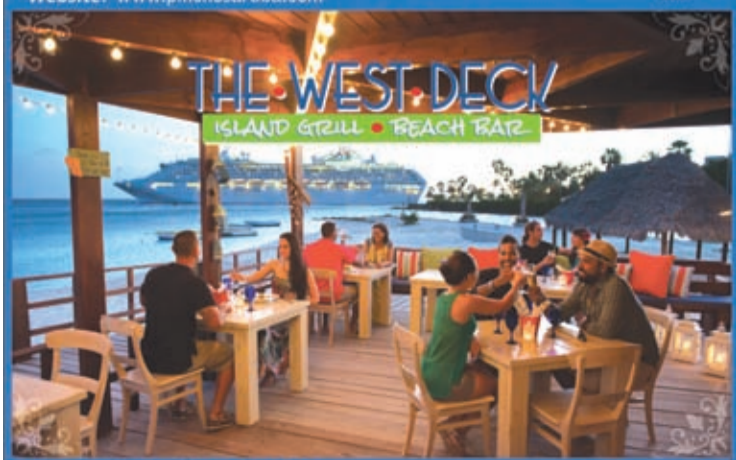


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LOCAL



Aruba Election 2021

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is due to hold general elections on June 25, 2021. Voters will elect all 21 members of the Estates (Staten), Aruba's unicameral parliament. The election should have taken place in September of 2021, but due to the resignation of the government on March 31st, 2021, before its legal four-year term, a new date had been stipulated according to the regulations as per Aruba's Constitution.

Aruba elects on national level a legislature. The Estates (Staten) consists of 21 members, elected for a four-year term by Open list Party-list proportional representation, meaning that voters have at least some

influence on the order in which a party's candidates are elected. Seats are distributed between parties that have gained at least one full quota (1/21, or approximately 4.76% of the vote) using the Hagenbach-Bischoff system (a variant of the D'Hondt method). Before obtaining the status as land/country in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruba participated in elections for its Island Council and for the Aruba constituency of the parliament of the Netherlands Antilles.

Aruba is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It has full autonomy over internal affairs, while the Dutch government handles foreign

and defense policy. Following Aruba's 2017 elections, the governing coalition is led by the social democratic People's Electoral Movement (MEP) party together with political parties POR and RED. The main opposition is the center-right Aruban People's Party (AVP), which holds nine of the 21 seats in the Estates. This year Aruba has a total of 12 parties taking part at the election 2021. They are MEP, AVP, POR, RED, PPA, RAIZ, MAS, UPP, HTC, CUR-PA, PP and ACCION 21.

Candidate lists

Submission of the candidate lists of political parties took place on May 7, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 situation only the autho-

4.1 Results of elections to Parliament

	2009	2013	2017
Number of persons with voting right	64,602	68,758	70,750
Number of persons who did vote	55,750	58,350	59,430
% of turn-out ¹	86.3	84.9	84
Valid votes	55,121	57,794	58,652
Invalid votes	629	556	751
Abstentions	8,852	10,408	11,347
Quota	2,624	2,752	2,792

Source: Population Registry Office

Authorized representative and 1 candidate or party leader on the list were allowed to be present at the personal submission that took place at the townhall in Oranjestad. Party lists may contain up to 29 candidates. Qualified electors must be 18 years and older

Color by parties

The following colors for the color print of the lists of candidates on the ballot paper can be used by political parties in the elections of 25 June 2021. These colors are: brown, light blue, dark blue, yellow, green, light gray, dark gray, orange, light orange, red, light pink, magenta, light purple, dark purple, khaki, white, olive green.

Voter Requirements

Voters must be residents of Aruba of at least 18 years of age with Dutch citizenship.

Voting measurements due to Corona

Forced to take measures due to the corona crisis, a switch has been made to partial digitization of the administrative processes of the polling station. For voters, this means that the voting pass has a QR code with voter data. The number of polling stations has been expanded from 64 to 70 in order to maximize the number of voters per polling station at 1,050. In addition to the special polling stations for voters in hospital, prison and nursing homes, a postal polling station has also been added for voters in isolation. Aruba

has not had a proxy voting system since 1979

Electoral Debate

The Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the University of Aruba will be organizing 2 debates, the first took place on June 3rd and the second will take place on June 17th, 2021. Leaders of all the participating political parties will be invited to the debates. Topics such as economy, public finance, labor, health, tourism, social affairs, education and justice will be discussed. Each party will be able to bring its plan of action, proposals and solutions based on challenges and opportunities for Aruba.

Campaign

In Aruba it is a custom to have candidates going to visit the people at their houses or holding informative sections all around the island. So, if you see groups of people walking with flags, t-shirt and perhaps some music on, don't panic they are just spreading the word for their candidate to the locals. Most of the candidates also have their own social media page or programs where they try to connect to as many people as possible to get their word out. Also, most parties are recycling old campaign material and distribute these to their followers.

On June 25, 2021 we will find out if we will have a one party or a coalition once again to run our island for the next four-year term. □



Aruba Airport impressed by results of Sustainability Consultancy by SISSTEM Students

ORANJESTAD – Recently 13 students of the University of Aruba's bachelor program Sustainable Island Solutions (SISSTEM) presented the findings of their first sustainability consultancy to the representatives of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA). Based on field observations and technical measurements, literature study, document analysis and interviews, the students formulated a consult on energy, water and waste management optimizations that would yield short and long term sustainability effects for the airport. The recommendations emphasize potential reduction of CO2 emissions and social interventions within the island context.

AAA's Director of Health, Safety and Sustainability, Angeline Flemming, complimented the students on their structured approach and on their attention for feasibility and budget.

Eric Mijts and Alba de Agustin of the University of Aruba indicated that the students appreciated the collaboration with AAA in this learning experience and are excited with the potential implementation of their contribution.

Based upon the input from AAA's staff, the students will finalize their final technical reports and management summaries that will be the completion of their consult. □

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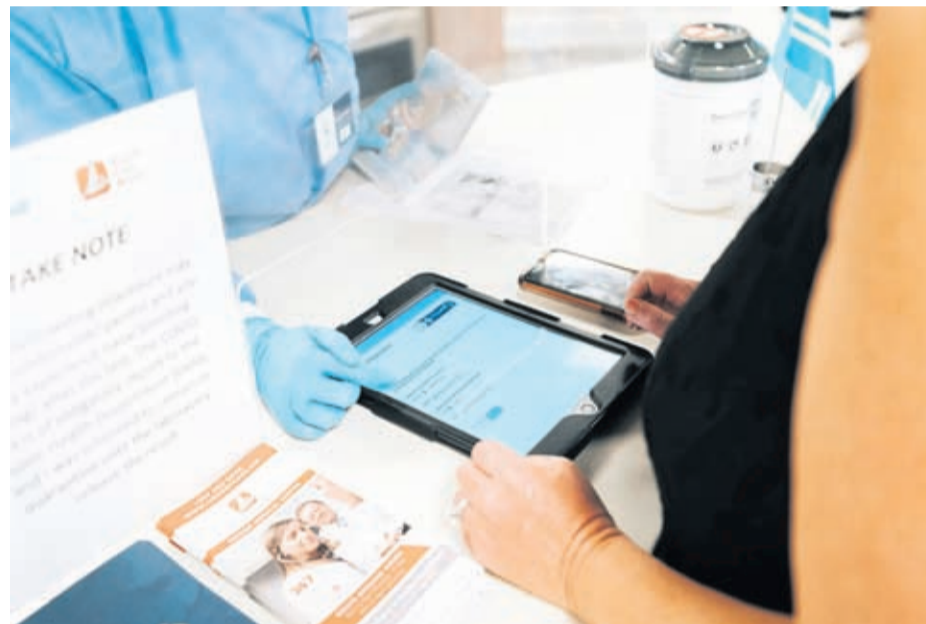


Medlab Aruba 'fit-2-fly': Covid-19 testing on the island

NOORD — While on vacation, the last thing you need to worry about is what to do or where to go for your COVID-19 testing. Many countries, including the U.S. require for all passengers heading back home to present with a negative test result for PCR or Antigen 72 hours prior to departure.

MEDLAB Aruba is an accredited ISO 15189:2012 OGA-LE 23-08 laboratory with over 30 years of experience on the island. The laboratory complies with the Department of Public Health of Aruba, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements for COVID -19 testing. MEDLAB Aruba has been assigned as one of the private laboratories authorized to perform "Fit-2-Fly" testing for departing passengers.

Hassle free scheduling – QR-code
The laboratory has invested on the only fully integrated digital booking platform on the island that allows guests to pre-register for the testing prior to coming to Aruba and have all their information incorporated upon entry to any of the available testing centers. Guests will receive



a confirmation email with QR-code that will be requested upon day of testing to facilitate a faster turnaround time for your results.

Testing options
Offering three method of testing gives you, our island visitors, the possibility to choose which service is at your convenience. Recommended time to complete test prior to departure is 48 (72) hours. We also request for you to bring your passport to the appointment.



Testing Option 1: Walk-In service at our location in Noord Medical Center (NMC), Noord 63 or at Superfood COVID Testing Center. You may also book online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM and choose location.
Testing Option 2: On-site at participating hotels. Only guests staying on these properties will be allowed to conduct the test. Appointment is also made online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM.
The participating hotels with testing facilities are Aruba Marriott Resort (Stellaris, Ocean and Surf Club), Holiday Inn, Playa Linda Beach Resort, RIU Antillas, RIU Palace, Eagle



Resort, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort, Casa del Mar & Aruba Beach Club, Caribbean Palm Village.

Testing Option 3: Airbnb/ Other hotel location. We come to you for the test together with our vehicular Mobile Health Test Unit. We require a minimum of six people for this service. Request/ Book appointment through WhatsApp number +297 5975548.

Price
Offering a great rate for the testing. The Antigen test is at \$50 and the PCR at \$100. Payment method is card (preferred), cash (hygiene measures).
The COVID Test is not covered by the Aruba Visitor's Insurance, but you are able to seek reimbursement once back home.

Results
Turn-around time for results is within 24 hours. Result is sent electronically to your email (check spam/ junk folder)
For more information visit www.covidaruba.com, call us at +297 5975548 or email us at covid@lab.aw.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION ACCORDING TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, BUILT ON PROPERTY LAND!

Native Stories in Aruba Today's Column: Island Insight

ORANJESTAD — Passionate people are a delight to listen to, naturally depending their topic of passion. Two years ago Aruba Today met an inspirational man: Anthony Croes, owner and curator of Etnia Nativa, a museum or better a unique cultural experience center, where he has established his home and atelier since 2003. We are more than happy to have Anthony as our weekly columnist. He has been enriching the newspaper every Tuesday with his knowledge on the cultural heritage, flora and fauna of our Happy Island. His column, Island Insight, will definitely show you Aruba from a different perspective. Welcome Anthony!

Aruba Today visited Anthony at his home Etnia Nativa and you can have a look yourself to learn about this amazing place on Facebook Aruba Today under Videos Ask Pilar – Etnia Nativa. Now let us introduce Anthony to you.

Homage to Heritage

Anthony Croes was born in Aruba 13 April 1961. He is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a kid, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges.

This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthro-

pological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that art soon became his yoga and took more time of his life he expected. This was after having suffered a serious spinal accident during a rain storm. So it was only a matter of time that he seriously considered art also as a full-time entertainment. This later gave way to be invited by many and various artists and curators to exhibit his work. On the other hand, it is perhaps understandable for someone of his generation and interest to pursue only one 'single' career.

Since this, he has come a long way in the notoriously

hard to crack Aruban art world.

Anthony's work is indicative of a more sophisticated reinvigoration of the islands indigenous aspect which is gaining force in contemporary art circles. Anthony explains that his work is an Aruban as it gets a blend of two totally different continents mind the old and the conquered with native's Aruban approaching ". In this way, Anthony circumvents the conventional dichotomy between the 'traditional' and the 'avant-garde'.

Initially, he established a studio called Shidaharaca in Oranjestad in 1998.

Anthony is currently the owner and curator of Etnia



Nativa Art Gallery –Museum.

A unique cultural experience center, where he has established his home and atelier since 2003. For more information regarding the artist: Etnia Nativa, Westpunt 37-A, Noord, Aruba. Telephone 00 297-592-2702, email etnianativa03@gmail.com, website www.etnianativa.facebook.com. □

Reminder from the Department of Public Health to all establishments that sell food and/or alcohol

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Public Health calls on everyone who sells food and/or drinks to take the following into account:

- As stipulated in the Personnel Decree on Commodities Regulation, all persons who sell food and/or alcohol must be in possession of a health certificate (green card). The Health Declaration must be valid and visible to all those responsible for the Public Health Service;
- Replacements of the Declaration of Health will not be accepted;
- The facility must meet all hygiene standards, namely:
 1. Cleanliness/cleanliness;
 2. food separation;
 3. all foods must be well cooked;

4. the food must be at the right temperature;
5. clean, safe water must be used.

If the above requirements are not met during the inspection, the Directorate of Public Health may impose a fine if deemed necessary. Persons who need to apply for or renew their health certificate can make an appointment online via the website of the Public Health Service: www.dvg.aw.

For more information, please contact the Department of Commodities Inspection and Sanitary Inspection (Hygienic Service) of the Department of Public Health at telephone 5224273 / 5224274 / 5224275 / 5224279 or by e-mail: dwh@dvg.aw. □

AHATA: Hotel occupancy in May was 30% lower than in 2019

ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has released the most recent hotel performance results, which shows that hotel occupancy reached 56.3% in May of 2021.

MAY 2021:

- Occupancy: The occupancy rate was 56.3%, which is 30% lower than in May of 2019.
- ADR: The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) was \$232.89, which is an increase of 3.4% compared to 2019. May was the first month of 2021 that Aruba experienced an increase in ADR.
- RevPAR: The revenue per available room achieved was \$131.16; 28% lower than 2019.

AVERAGE OF FIRST 5 MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

- Average occupancy from January through May 2021 was 5.3% lower than in 2020 and 53.9% lower than in 2019.
- RevPAR was 32.4% lower than in 2020 and 61.6% lower than in 2019.

OCCUPANCY FORECAST:

	Occupancy	Occ level compared to 2019
June	66%	80%
July	71%	80%
August	61%	70%
September	56%	70%
2021	55%	65%

TIMESHARE

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced a 76% occupancy rate in May, and project an average occupancy of 77% for June

2021.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba, Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Radisson Blu Aruba, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club. □

Delicate task for Fed: When to pull back on low-rate support

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
WASHINGTON (AP) — With inflation rising in a fast-rebounding economy, the Federal Reserve is poised this week to discuss when it will take its first steps toward dialing back its ultra-low interest rate policies.

It will be a fraught discussion, one likely to occur over several months. Yet the escalating inflation that has forced consumers and businesses to pay more has intensified pressure on the Fed to ensure that rising prices don't become entrenched in consumers' outlooks. If Americans start to anticipate higher prices, they might take actions — such as accelerating their purchases before prices rise further — that could send inflation even higher.

The Fed faces a dilemma: On the one hand, inflation is rising much faster than it had projected earlier this year, though the Fed has characterized the price pressures as "transitory," a consequence of supply shortages and a fast recovery. On the other hand, hiring has been slower than the benchmark that Chair Jerome Powell mentioned at a news conference after the Fed's most recent meeting in late April.

Powell said at the time that he would want to see a "string" of hiring reports showing about 1 million added jobs each month. The job market has yet to reach that total in any month this year, though employers have posted a record-high number of open jobs.

With the economic picture still clouded by the chaos of reopening from the recession, no major decisions are expected Wednesday when the Fed's latest policy meeting ends and Powell holds a news conference. The Fed is set to keep its key short-term rate near zero and to continue buying \$120 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bonds. Those purchases are intended to keep longer-term rates low to encourage borrowing and spending.

But the Fed's policymaking



In this Dec. 1, 2020 file photo, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Jerome Powell appears before the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

committee appears likely to start discussing the timing and mechanics of gradually reducing its bond purchases. Communicating that decision to the public will be a sensitive task. If the Fed indicates that it will taper its purchases earlier than markets expect, it risks a repeat of the "taper tantrum" in 2013.

That occurred when then-Chairman Ben Bernanke jolted financial markets by suggesting that the Fed could taper its bond purchases "in the next few meetings" — sooner than traders had expected. Bernanke's remarks sent longer-term bond yields surging.

Having learned from that incident, Powell will likely have any tapering action follow the Fed's 2017 decision to slowly reduce the bond holdings it had accumulated after the Great Recession. The first hint of that plan emerged six months before a final decision was made. Economists expect a similar timeline

now, which suggests that any tapering won't occur before year's end.

Last week, the government reported that inflation jumped to 5% in May compared with a year earlier — the largest 12-month spike since 2008. The increase was driven partly by a huge rise in used car prices, which have soared as shortages of semiconductors have slowed vehicle production. Auto rental companies have had to buy up used cars to rebuild their fleets, much of which were sold off in the pandemic.

Other inflation drivers have included services, like airline tickets, car rentals and hotel rooms, for which prices had tumbled at the outset of COVID-19 outbreak and are now regaining pre-pandemic levels. The reopening of the U.S. economy has also forced up prices for clothing, as more people return to work in person. Such price increases may not last.

"I think they still feel pretty

strongly that what we're seeing is transitory," said Steve Friedman, an economist at investment firm Mackay Shields and a former senior staffer at the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Another key consideration is whether inflation persists long enough to affect the public's behavior. If Americans start expecting price increases, those expectations can become self-fulfilling.

So far, bond yields and consumer surveys suggest that while higher inflation is expected in the short term, investors and most of the public expect only modest price gains in the long run. Powell has long maintained that the public's perceptions of future inflation evolve only slowly.

"The sharp temporary increases in some categories of goods and services seem unlikely to leave an imprint on longer-run inflation behavior," Lael Brainard, one of six governors on the Fed's board, said earlier

this month.

As a result, the policymakers may begin discussing a tapering of their bond purchases this week. But several more months will likely elapse before a decision is made.

"We have to be thinking ahead, planning ahead, and so I do think it makes sense for us to be thinking through the various options that we may have in the future," John Williams, president of the New York Federal Reserve, said in an interview with Yahoo Finance early this month.

At the same time, Williams, who is seen as close to Powell, said that "to my mind, we're still quite a ways off from reaching the substantial further progress that we're really looking for" to start slowing the bond purchases.

Another challenge is that the Fed officials have never defined what "substantial further progress" toward its dual goals of full employment and inflation at or slightly above 2% would look like.

That's one issue that policymakers will need to discuss, Friedman said, along with how quickly they will reduce their bond purchases once the tapering begins. Another is whether they should reduce their purchases of Treasury and mortgage bonds at the same pace. Some economists favor sharper reductions to purchases of mortgage bonds, which, they argue, now provide an unnecessary boost to the housing market.

On Wednesday, the Fed will also update its quarterly economic and interest rate projections. Many economists expect the officials to signal that they expect to start raising their benchmark rate in late 2023. That would mark a shift: The policymakers' previous forecast in March had shown no rate hike through 2023. Fed officials will also likely sharply increase their forecast for inflation this year, but only slightly for the following two years, to show that they expect price increases to wane. □

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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S	A	T	I	E		Y	O	K	E
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Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 42 High-maintenance
 - 1 Partners while
 - 6 After a while
 - 11 Grownup
 - 12 Electrified
 - 13 Sweet snacks
 - 15 Paintings and sculpture
 - 16 Deli bread
 - 17 Fury
 - 18 Some terriers
 - 20 Dramatist Jonson
 - 21 Green and Gore
 - 22 Ship's pole
 - 23 Door-slamming play
 - 26 Shopping centers
 - 27 Touch on
 - 28 Deep groove
 - 29 Novak of "Vertigo"
 - 30 Stocking type
 - 34 Shade tree
 - 35 Paris pal
 - 36 Low digit
 - 37 Sweet snacks
 - 40 Fury
 - 41 Good quality
- DOWN**
- 1 Showy parrot
 - 2 Love to pieces
 - 3 Clumps of grass
 - 4 North Pole worker
 - 5 Like surgical tools
 - 6 Oxford parts
 - 7 In the style of
 - 8 Place to order a mai tai
 - 9 Himalayan peak
 - 10 Bristles at
 - 14 Peepers
 - 19 Diplomatic skill
 - 22 School subject
 - 23 It may be sprayed on
 - 24 Chisholm Trail end
 - 25 Search, as at a sale
 - 26 Broadway show
 - 28 Tire holders
 - 30 Sprite
 - 31 Racket
 - 32 Door sign
 - 33 Lab work
 - 38 Sleep site
 - 39 Employ

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6-15

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

BX BKV ZQ MBPPVS SBJF. XIE
LVMBOQV ERV PZKRE TBZPQ
EI QRZXV. LOE LVMBOQV
GVIGPV JVTOQV EI QVV ZE.

DBWVQ WZMRVXVJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EVERY BABY BORN INTO THE WORLD IS A FINER ONE THAN THE LAST. — CHARLES DICKENS



In this Saturday, March 14, 2020 file photo, an Apple logo adorns the facade of the downtown Brooklyn Apple store in New York. Associated Press

Apple reaffirms privacy stance amid Trump probe revelations

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP) —

Seeking to protect its image as a guardian of personal privacy, Apple maintains it was blindsided and handcuffed by a Trump administration probe that resulted in the company handing over phone data from two Democratic congressmen. Apple delivered its version of events Friday in response to news reports detailing the U.S. Justice Department's aggressive attempts to use its legal power to identify leaks tied to an investigation into former President Donald Trump's ties to Russia.

The Justice Department was able to persuade a federal grand jury to issue a subpoena that culminated in Apple turning over the metadata — information that can include general records of calls and texts — about House Intelligence Committee members Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell, both California Democrats, during 2018. Both lawmakers were key figures on the committee looking into Trump's connections with Russia; Schiff is now the panel's chair.

Neither Schiff and Swalwell knew some of the information had been seized until May 5, after a series of gag orders had finally expired, according to the compa-

ny. The revelation of Apple's compliance with the subpoena emerged at a time when the company has been ramping up efforts to frame privacy as "fundamental human right" in its marketing campaigns. Apple also upped the privacy ante in April when it rolled out privacy controls on the iPhone as part of an effort to make it more difficult for companies such as Facebook to track people's online activities to help sell ads.

In a statement, Apple emphasized it will continue to fight unjustified legal demands for personal information and keep customers informed about them. But in this instance, Apple said it was constrained by a nondisclosure order signed by a federal magistrate judge and said it had no information about the nature of the investigation. "It would have been virtually impossible for Apple to understand the intent of the desired information without digging through users' accounts," the Cupertino, California, company said. "Consistent with the request, Apple limited the information it provided to account subscriber information and did not provide any content such as emails or pictures." Apple also believes other

technology companies may have been confronted with similar legal demands, based on the broad nature of the request it received for "customer or subscriber account information" spanning 73 phone numbers and 36 email addresses. It remains unclear how many other companies may have been swept up in the Trump administration's attempt to track down leakers.

In a statement, Microsoft acknowledged receiving at least one subpoena in 2017 related to a personal email account. It said it notified the customer after the gag order expired and learned that the person was a congressional staff member. "We will continue to aggressively seek reform that imposes reasonable limits on government secrecy in cases like this," the company said.

Privacy experts were more troubled by the U.S. laws that allowed the Justice Department to secretly obtain the subpoenas and then keep them under wraps for years than by Apple's limited compliance with the demands.

The subpoenas represent a "a quintessential example of government abuse" that ensnared Apple, said Alan Butler, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. □

Classifieds

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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
Richard Brooks
Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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A star-studded retirement home in 'Queen Bees'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

There are two genres I tend to approach with extra caution: Slashers and retirement home comedies. Both have found me covering my eyes for not entirely unrelated reasons. Yes, the dismembering is more metaphorical in the latter, but sometimes it's equally hard to stomach seeing a great group of actors reduced to incontinence jokes. Also, I'm still recovering from the Diane Keaton movie "Poms."

The latest retirement home comedy is "Queen Bees," about Helen (played by the majestic Ellen Burstyn), who reluctantly moves into a senior community while her beautiful suburban house is being fixed up after an accidental kitchen fire. Helen is still sharp and active and capable of living alone, but her real estate agent daughter (Elizabeth Mitchell) just seems to want to get the inevitable transition to out of the way. Helen, for her part, suspects her daughter just wants to sell her home and she may



This image released by Gravitas Ventures shows a scene from "Queen Bees."

Associated Press

not be wrong. For as lovely as Helen's house is, the retirement community is pretty nice and full of active and social seniors. It's also stacked with talented actors: Alongside Burstyn in this senior home is James Caan, Ann-Margret, Jane Curtin, Loretta Devine and Christopher Lloyd, all of whom it's a delight to simply see on screen and none of whom are subjected to

tasteless gags (although some are borderline). "Queen Bees," directed by Michael Lembeck and written by Donald Martin, isn't exactly a bad movie, but it's not exactly good either. It has a decent heart and some lovely moments, but it also has many of the clichés that we've come to expect: An incontinence joke, a marijuana scene, stroke gags, a truly horren-

dous score and an appalling lack of curiosity about the characters we're asked to spend a few hours with. Even the title seems carelessly thrown at the movie as an attempt to peg it as a senior citizen "Mean Girls," which it only sort of is. Curtin's Janet is the Regina George of the home and keeps her bridge and walking group small (just Ann-Margret's Margot and

Devine's Sally are members). But aside from that and a slow-motion walk into the lunchroom to claim their designated table, they don't seem to yield much power or envy among the other residents. And it's not too long before Helen, who is apathetic to their exclusivity, is invited to the bridge table. If you're looking for a comedic, anthropological study of cliques in a retirement home, "Queen Bees" isn't it. "Queen Bees" also has the bones of a much better movie and is frustrating because of it. There is a sitcom blandness to the whole endeavor — any edge or personality has been flattened out. Characters get at most a single bit of background: One had five husbands, one had cancer, one sleeps around. In one jaw-dropping scene Helen tells Sally about her days protesting with Dr. King and has zero follow-up questions for her Black peer about HER experience during that time. Instead they pivot to talking about hair extensions, which Helen is just learning about. □

Duchess of Sussex's 'The Bench' celebrates fathers and sons



This combination photo shows Meghan, Duchess of Sussex leaving Canada House in London, on Jan. 7, 2020, left, and cover art for her upcoming children's book "The Bench," with pictures by Christian Robinson.

Associated Press

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
NEW YORK (AP) — The first children's book by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is a multicultural tribute to fatherhood. "The Bench," a picture story published Tuesday by Random House Children's

Books, celebrates the bond between Meghan's husband Prince Harry and son Archie and fathers and sons in general. Markle's rhyming narrative is complemented by illustrator Christian Robinson's watercolor images, showing fam-

ilies of different skin colors and backgrounds, from a light-skinned soldier returning home (Harry served in Afghanistan) to a dark-skinned man in dreadlocks, from a boy carrying a soccer trophy to a boy and his father wearing pink tutus. Fathers are seen as buddies, teachers, consolers and cheerleaders. Random House calls the book a portrait of "the special relationship between fathers and sons, through a mother's eyes." The image of the bench serves as a symbol of stability and comfort, starting with a drawing of Harry holding his baby son on a bench, two dogs nearby. Markle's opening stanza: "This is your bench Where life will begin For you and our son Our baby, our kin" The book's jacket describes Meghan, the actor formerly known as Meghan Markle,

as "a mother, wife, feminist, and activist," committed to "activating compassion in communities across the world. She currently resides in her home state of California with her family, two dogs, and a growing flock of rescue chickens." In announcing "The Bench" last month, she said it began as a Father's Day poem written a month after Archie's birth, in 2019. "That poem became this story," said Meghan, who dedicated the book to "the man and the boy who made my heart go pump-pump." Publication of "The Bench" comes four days after the birth of the couple's second child, Lilibet "Lili" Diana Mountbatten-Windsor, named in part for Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, whose family nickname is Lilibet, and his late mother, Princess Diana.

Meghan was pregnant with Lilibet while working on the book and the final illustration shows Harry and Archie, now a toddler, at the family's chicken coop. Meghan is in the garden on the opposite page, wearing a sun hat, holding an infant in a sling. Her final stanza: "Right there on your bench The place you'll call home With daddy and son Where you'll never be 'lone'" Meghan and Harry announced last year they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, their reasons including the racist attitudes of the British media. In a TV interview in March with Oprah Winfrey, they described unnervering comments about how dark Archie's skin might be before his birth and Meghan talked about isolation so intense she contemplated suicide. □

Nuggets lament injury-riddled season that came up short

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Nuggets' season came to an ignominious end with Jamal Murray looking on from the bench and newly crowned league MVP Nikola Jokic watching from the locker room.

The Phoenix Suns completed their second-round sweep with a 125-118 win Sunday night in Denver, holding off an inspired effort by the Nuggets following Jokic's stunning third-quarter ejection.

Long have the Nuggets chafed at the lack of respect and calls that Jokic gets, particularly this season as the 7-foot Serbian blossomed into the NBA's runaway best player.

Frustration boiled over 48 hours after Jokic humbly accepted the Maurice Podoloff Trophy that he dedicated to his teammates, coaches, trainers, front office and family.

Infuriated at no whistle for the contact on his one-handed runner that bounced off the rim with the Nuggets down seven late in the third quarter, Jokic gestured at the official before racing to Cameron Payne, whom he swatted across the face as



Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker, left, shakes hands with injured Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray after the second half of Game 4 of an NBA second-round playoff series, Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Denver. Phoenix won 125-118 to sweep the series.

Associated Press

he took a hard swipe at the ball.

That led Suns star Devin Booker to confront the Nuggets' 7-foot big man, leading to a double technical. After the two were separated, the crew reviewed the play at midcourt as Jokic retreated to the bench.

"I thought honestly, they're not going to eject me," said Jokic, who hadn't even

been assessed a Flagrant 1 foul in 345 games and who isn't known as a dirty player. Jokic apologized to Payne before he was escorted through the tunnel.

To players across the league, the Joker's bewildering ejection was a joke. "A Flagrant 2? Wow." tweeted Trae Young of the Atlanta Hawks.

Ja Morant of the Memphis

Grizzlies chimed in, "playoffs. elimination game. give him a flagrant 1 and play ball man."

Crew chief David Guthrie explained afterward that "the wind-up, the impact, the follow-through, the unnecessary and excessive contact above the shoulders into the face" met the criteria for a Flagrant 2.

The Nuggets played val-

iantly without Jokic but couldn't extend the series.

"I wish we could have played them at full strength," said Nuggets coach Michael Malone.

A year after leading the Nuggets to the Western Conference Finals in the Walt Disney World bubble in Florida, Jokic steered his team through a trying season marked by a rash of injuries, most notably to fellow star Murray, who tore his left ACL in April.

They also lost Monte Morris, P.J. Dozier and Will Barton III down the stretch.

Amid all those injuries — not to mention a jampacked season where virtually everyone got some rest along the way — Jokic was a rare everyday player, a big man who logged big minutes. He's the only player to start all his team's regular-season games in the last two seasons, being on the floor for tip-off all 145 times. Despite that ever-changing cast around him, Jokic guided Denver to the No. 3 playoff seed in the West. Behind Jokic, the Nuggets went 13-5 after Murray tore his ACL on April 12 and he led Denver past Portland in the first round of the playoffs. □

French Open champ Krejckikova 15th in singles, 1st in doubles

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP**
Tennis Writer

French Open champion Barbora Krejckikova's twin titles at Roland Garros earned jumps in the WTA rankings to No. 15 in singles and No. 1 in doubles.

The women's and men's rankings released Monday determine which players are eligible to compete at the Tokyo Olympics, which start next month. Each country can send as many as four women and four men in singles, and 17-year-old Coco Gauff rose two spots to a career-best No. 23, which makes her the fourth-highest woman from the United States.

Gauff is behind No. 5 Sofia Kenin, No. 8 Serena Williams and No. 14 Jennifer Brady. Jessica Pegula is No. 26,

with Madison Keys at No. 28.

The WTA Top 10 didn't change, including Ash Barty at No. 1 and Naomi Osaka at No. 2.

Novak Djokovic remained at No. 1 in the ATP rankings after claiming his second French Open title — and 19th at a major tournament — by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7 (6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in Sunday's final.

Tsitsipas went up one spot to No. 4, his best, swapping places with 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem. Daniil Medvedev stayed at No. 2, followed by Rafael Nadal. Roger Federer is No. 8.

Roberto Bautista Agut re-joined the Top 10 by rising one notch from 11th; Diego Schwartzman slid from 10th

to 11th.

Krejckikova, a 25-year-old from the Czech Republic, is the first woman since Mary Pierce in 2000 to win both singles and doubles trophies in Paris.

Krejckikova rose 18 spots from 33rd in singles to a career high after beating Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 in Saturday's final for her first Grand Slam singles title. In doubles, she went from No. 7 to return to the top spot, which she first occupied in October 2018, after teaming with Katerina Siniakova to defeat Iga Swiatek and Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday for their third major championship as a duo.

The unseeded Krejckikova was participating in only her fifth main draw at any



Czech Republic's Barbora Krejckikova holds the French Open tennis tournament women's cup, left, and women's doubles cup during a photocall Monday, June 14, 2021 in Paris.

Associated Press

Grand Slam tournament in singles; she'd once been as far as the fourth round previously. But she eliminated a string of seeded players, including Gauff, Pavlyuchenkova, Elina Svitolina

and Maria Sakkari. Pavlyuchenkova's first appearance in a major final — she had been 0-6 in quarterfinals previously — allowed her to go from No. 32 to No. 19. □

Familiarity and respect among coaches left in NHL playoffs

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

When Barry Trotz's Washington Capitals knocked out Jon Cooper's Tampa Bay Lightning on the way to the Stanley Cup in 2018, the two coaches talked that summer about how it all went down.

A similar conversation happened last fall after Cooper and the Lightning went through Trotz's New York Islanders to win the Cup.

"(We) spoke about our teams and what we did well against each other, what we didn't," Cooper said. "You don't usually get that with a ton of coaches, but Barry is a pretty open guy and for the most part I guess I am too, and we're not afraid to share stuff with each other."

They share the experience of attending the same Canadian prep school in a tiny Saskatchewan town (several years apart), but Trotz is a hockey lifer and Cooper was an attorney before switching professions. Vegas coach Peter DeBoer and Montreal's Dominique Ducharme have very different levels of NHL experience but each came from junior hockey.

The four coaches left in the playoffs have meaningful connections but all took different paths to get to this point — a handful of wins from hoisting hockey's holy grail.

"I'm always looking at the other guys and trying to



New York Islanders head coach Barry Trotz stands behind his bench during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh, in this Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

pick up as much as I can everywhere," said Ducharme, the least experienced of the quartet as a midseason replacement when the Canadiens fired Claude Julien. "(Coaching is) just about dealing with people. (Players are) older, more experienced, the dialogue might be different, but the goals and the ways to do it remain similar."

The similarities between the coaches facing off in the semifinals are striking. Cooper and Trotz beam with pride about playing for the Notre Dame Hounds, while DeBoer and Ducharme have bonded over coaching in the Canadian

Hockey League and being on world junior staffs with Canada.

Even though DeBoer is now on his fourth team in 12 years in the NHL, he and Ducharme have talked about what they have in common and swapped some ideas along the way. "The one thing about coming up the way we both have, you have to learn to teach and communicate: If you coach junior hockey for an extended period, I was almost 15 years, and I think Dom was at least 10, you're dealing with young kids, and the messaging has to be simple and straightforward and has to

get to the point," DeBoer said. "Those are tools you take with you when you move on to the NHL. I've got a lot of respect for guys that kind of pay their dues on the way up, and he's one of those guys."

Trotz certainly paid his dues, going from an assistant at the University of Manitoba through scouting and into the American Hockey League before getting his first NHL head job with expansion Nashville in 1998. Cooper was still practicing law at that point. It wasn't until 1999 that he moved into coaching full time at the high school level, and much like Trotz, climbed

the ladder through the AHL until Tampa Bay promoted him in 2013.

"He's an excellent coach," Trotz said of Cooper. "I think with Jon, his path's a little different, obviously. He was a lawyer and was coaching hockey as well and had to make, I'll say, a life decision or a career decision and he's chosen well. Obviously, he can always go back to law if he ever decides not to coach."

Don't expect that any time soon, not after leading the Lightning to the championship last season and having the deep, talented team rolling toward another final. Tampa Bay is a polar opposite of Montreal, which may not have made the playoffs if not for Ducharme, who has fans all over the NHL. "I know how good a coach he is," said Golden Knights general manager Kelly McCrimmon, who worked alongside Ducharme on Canada's staff at the 2016 world junior tournament. "I've followed his career since then. I was super excited for him to get the opportunity with the Canadiens and not surprised the impact that he's had." Ducharme and the Canadiens are a surprise contender, but Vegas isn't. DeBoer has taken two other teams to the final — New Jersey in 2012 and San Jose in 2016 — but is looking for his first title, which would tie Trotz and Cooper. □

Lochte fails to advance in 200 free prelims at U.S. trials

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Olympic champion Ryan Lochte failed to advance from the preliminaries of the 200-meter freestyle on Monday, his first event of the U.S. Olympic swimming trials.

The 36-year-old Lochte, attempting to make his fifth Olympic team, posted a time of 1 minute, 49.23 seconds — only good enough for 25th place overall.

The top 16 advanced to the evening semifinals, led by Kieran Smith at 1:46.54.

Caeleb Dressel was second in 1:46.63. Smith won the 400 free on Sunday to earn his first trip to the Olympics.

Lochte was also entered Monday in the 100 backstroke, but he scratched that event. Defending Olympic champion Ryan Murphy easily advanced from the preliminaries, as did 36-year-old Matt Grevers, the 2012 gold medalist.

Even though Lochte initially entered six events at the

trials, it appears the 200 individual medley is the only race in which he has any realistic shot of earning a trip to Tokyo. He scratched the 400 IM on Sunday.

Lochte has won 12 Olympic medals, including six golds.

Now married with two children, he hopes to make it to one more Olympics to erase the stigma of an incident at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, where he lied about being robbed at gunpoint. □



In this July 31, 2019, file photo, Ryan Lochte competes in the men's 200-meter individual medley time trial at the U.S. national swimming championships in Stanford, Calif.

Associated Press